

Message Text

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SUBJ: TOLBA MEETING WITH PERMREPS

REF A) NAIROBI 5847 B) NAIROBI 6096

SUMMARY: AT APRIL 20 MEETING WITH PERMREPS AND FOCAL POINTS, UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TOLBA DISCUSSED HIS RECENT MONTH-LONG TRIP DURING WHICH HE VISITED ELEVEN COUNTRIES AND THREE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (EEC, OECD AND CMEA), RESTRUCTURING RESOLUTION ON MERGING ECB INTO ACC, HIS PLANS FOR GC VI AND, BRIEFLY, THE UPCOMING MEETING OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON DESERTIFICATION CONTROL (DESCON).

1. TRIP RESULTS: TOLBA WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH RECEPTION AND RESULTS OF HIS TRIP. HE HAD STRESSED THE FOLLOWING POINTS AT EACH STOP:

A. IRS: WHILE HE WAS SATISFIED WITH PROGRESS OF REGISTRATION OF SOURCES FOR IRS, HE TOLD HIS INTERLOCUTORS THAT HE WAS EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED WITH RATE OF USAGE, WHICH WAS ONLY SOME 20 INQUIRIES PER MONTH. (HE NOTED THAT SINCE HIS RETURN, RATE HAD INCREASED TO 80-100 PER MONTH.)

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B. IRPTC: HE WAS UNABLE TO CLAIM SIMILAR SUCCESS FOR IRPTC. HE WAS NOT AT ALL HAPPY WITH LACK OF RESPONSE OF GOVERNMENTS TO UNEP'S REQUEST FOR THEM TO NAME NATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS AND WARNED GOVERNMENTS THAT THEY COULD NOT BLAME UNEP FOR LACK OF PROGRESS IN THIS REGARD.

C. GOALS: HE HAD ENCOUNTERED NO NEGATIVE REACTIONS AND

TOOK THIS AS INDICATION OF ENDORSEMENT.

D. GC APPROVAL OF PROJECTS: ALL GOVERNMENTS WHICH HE CONTACTED WERE SATISFIED WITH EXISTING PROCEDURES. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED USSR IN THIS CONNECTION, AND SAID THAT SOVIETS HAD TOLD HIM THAT THEY HAD NEVER ENVISAGED ANY CHANGE IN EXDIR'S AUTHORITY TO APPROVE PROJECTS AND TO DETERMINE WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN TO GC.

E. ENVIORNMENT FUND: TOLBA REPORTED ON AGREEMENTS REACHED WITH USSR ON QUESTION OF NON-CONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES AND OF VARIOUS WEO'S TO INCREASE CONTRIBUTIONS (SEE REF B). HE NOTED THAT MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FIGURE OF \$150 MILLION SHOULD BE CLARIFIED, AS IT ACTUALLY IS SOME \$155.5 MILLION.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES COSTS OF \$31.5 MILLION FOR 1978 AND \$30 MILLION ANNUALLY FOR 1979-1981 TOTAL \$121.5 MILLION. TO THIS MUST BE ADDED \$30 MILLION IN PROGRAM SUPPORT COSTS FOR THE FOUR-YEAR PERIOD PLUS \$1 MILLION ANNUALLY FOR FINANCIAL RESERVE. TOLBA REITERATED THAT HE WAS COMMITTED TO TWO GOALS IN RELATION TO FUND: (1) A BROADENING OF THE BASE OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND (2) AN INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF CONTRIBUTIONS OF THOSE GIVING LESS THAN THEIR FAIR SHARE BASED ON GNP. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT HIS EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTIONS WOULD TAKE TIME (PERHAPS TO YEARS).
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F. ENVIORNMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: TOLBA STRESSED TO DONOR COUNTRIES THE NEED TO PREPARE ENVIORNMENTAL IMPACT STUDIES AND TO ADVISE RECIPIENTS OF ENVIORNMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF PROJECTS.

G. COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS: EVERYONE DISCUSSES COSTS OF ENVIORNMENTAL PROTECTION MEASURES; NO ONE DISCUSSES BENEFITS, OR, CONVERSELY, COSTS OF NOT TAKING SUCH MEASURES. HE FOUND FAIRLY WIDE ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL FOR SERIES OF CASE STUDIES, AND IS HAVING FIVE OR SIX PAGE STUDY PREPARED ON HOW TO PROCEED HE HOPES TO HOLD INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS DURING GC.

2. TOLBA IS OBVIOUSLY BOTHERED BY RESTRUCTURING RESOLUTION CALLING FOR MERGER OF ECB, ALONG WITH IACB AND UNIDAC, INTO ACC. HE FEARS THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN AGENCIES WILL TEND TO BECOME MORE BUREAUCRATIC AND THAT ESTABLISHED NETWORK OF FOCAL POINTS MIGHT DISAPPEAR. HE ALSO NOTED THAT UNGA RESOLUTION 2997 HAD ESTABLISHED EC BAS PART OF UNEP AND THAT OTHER RESOLUTIONS HAD ASSIGNED SPECIFIC TASKS TO ECB, E.G. IN CONNECTION WITH FOLLOW-UP TO DESERTI-

FICATION CONFERENCE. HE WOULD HOPE TO DISCUSS THIS DURING GENERAL DEBATE AT GC VI AND OBTAIN VIEWS OF GOVERNMENTS ON HOW ACC COULD CARRY OUT THESE FUNCTIONS.

3. GC VI: TOLBA WILL MAKE HIS OPENING ADDRESS AFTERNOON MAY 9 AT WHICH TIME HE WILL ANNOUNCE WINNER OF PAHLAVI PRIZE (SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE IN NEW YORK AND TEHRAN.) HE WILL REPORT ON DIFFERENCE OF VIEW WITH PARTIES TO METITERRANEAN ACTION WHICH SURFACED AT MONACO REGARDING UNEP'S CONTRIBUTION (SEE '77 NAIROBI 16373) AND ON SIMILAR DISAGREEMENT WITH PARTIES TO ENDANGERED SPECIES COVENTION (NAIROBI 4413) FOR WHICH TOLBA WANTS LIMIT OF \$400,000 AND PARTIES WANT \$2 MILLION. ADMITTING THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT HE WAS GOING TO SAY ABOUT HABITAT, UNCLASSIFIED

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TOLBA MERELY NOTED THAT CONTINUOUS CONSULTATIONS WERE TAKING PLACE.

4. TURNING BRIEFLY TO MAY 2-5 DESCON MEETING, TOLBA SAID HE FELT DONOR COUNTRIES HAD "MORAL OBLGATION" TO SUPPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP INASMUCH AS THEY HAD RAISED NO OBJECT-ION IN UNGA TO ITS ESTABLISHMENT. HE THEREFORE HOPED THAT ALL PRESENT WOULD URGE THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE "POSITIVE STANCE." IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY UK HIGH COMMISSIONER ON WHETHER PARTICIPATION IN INITIAL MEETING WOULD CONSTITUTE COMMITMENT TO CONTINUED MEMBER-SHIP IN GROUP, TOLBA NOTED THAT SOME 68 COUNTRIES AND ORGAN-IZATIONS HAD BEEN INVITED AND THAT FINAL GROUP WOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE THAT LARGE. ATTENDANCE AT MEETING WOULD INVOLVE NO RPT NO OBLIGATION AND IT WAS IN NO WAY A PLEDGING CONFERENCE. AT LEAST THREE PROJECT PROPOSALS WILL BE PRESENTED, AND TOLBA WOULD HOPE THAT DONORS MIGHT BE ABLE TO EXPRESS INTEREST IN ONE OR MORE, AND THAT DIS-CUSSIONS MUGHT ALSO CONSIDER METHODS OF ORGANIZING FINANCING FOR PROJECTS.
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